

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5355
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
PROVISION OF FREE ROAMING FACILITY
Maharia Shri Subhash

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to provide free roaming facility or any such other facility to Bhart Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) subscribers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the said scheme is likely to be introduced;
- (c) whether the BSNL and MTNL issue more connections than their capacity thereby choking the lines and causing a lot of difficulties for the public;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. As per the existing provisions of Telecommunications Tariff Orders(TTO), tariff for telecom services are under forbearance, except with regard to Fixed Line Service in Rural Areas, National Roaming Service in Cellular Mobile Service and Leased Line Service.

(c) to (e) In GSM based mobile network it is generally possible to have more number of subscriber than the dimensioned capacity if actual total usage does not exceed the dimensioned traffic handling capacity. The total subscriber base of BSNL is slightly higher than the equipped capacity. The network performance depends on the actual usage by the subscribers at any given point of time. Presently, the said service of BSNL is working satisfactorily and is, in general, meets the Quality of Service (QoS) paramefers prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) at present. However, congestion has been observed in the network sometimes at some places for which BSNL already initiated action for augmentation of its network. The same would enhance coverage, capacity and Quality of Service. The network is also being continuously optimized for its performance and monitoring of the network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per QoS parameters by TRAI.

MTNL network services are working satisfactorily. There was some temporary congestion in the cellular mobile network due to upgradation and capacity expansion in MTNL Delhi which has now been commissioned and network is working satisfactorily.